

# Newark

Sharpe James  
Mayor

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Department of Engineering

Howard S. Lazarus, P.E.  
Director

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April 23, 1999

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Sharpe James, Mayor  
FROM: Howard S. Lazarus, P.E., Director, Department of Engineering  
RE: Newark Greenways Project  
FY 98 Sustainable Development Challenge Grant

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Attached for your information, please find a notice of EPA's grant award for quality of life projects in the City's Central Award.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please feel free to call upon me at your convenience.

HSL:as

Attachments: Press Release Item - FY 98 Grant Award

CC: JoAnne Watson, Business Administrator  
Pamela Goldstein, Press Secretary

Rec'd 11:28 AM  
APR 28 1999

Final Press Advisory item for release Friday, April 16, 1999

## **41 PROPOSALS SELECTED FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM**

EPA has selected 41 innovative proposals for FY 98 funding under its Sustainable Development Challenge Grant program. The program provides seed money to encourage creative local approaches to serious environmental problems through sustainable development strategies. It funds community partnerships among citizens, non-profit organizations, government, and business. EPA received more than 650 proposals, requesting \$82 million, for this 1998 funding round. Awards totaling approximately \$5 million will be made after approval of the 41 final grant packages. This final selection completes the third year in the Sustainable Development Challenge Grant program which, when these new grants are finalized, will have funded 96 projects for \$10.5 million. Further information, including descriptions of the 41 new projects, is available at: [www.epa.gov/ecocommunity](http://www.epa.gov/ecocommunity). A new request for proposals for the 1999/2000 program will be released this summer.

increasing urbanization pressures, water quality conflict, natural ecosystem decline, nonpoint water quality concerns, and general public lack of knowledge about complex environmental issues. This project will construct a foundation for successful community-based, sustainable development within the Middle Platte River and Lower Loop Sub-basins, by conducting discussion forums, formulating a grassroots visioning and community planning effort, cultivating awareness of local natural resources and natural ecosystem functions, introducing new ideas concerning sustainable development practices, building community leadership skills, and creating demonstrations of alternate land use options. Applicant: Prairie Plains Resource Institute, Aurora, NE

**Living Free, Developing Sustainably - Minimum Impact Development in New Hampshire (New Hampshire)** The cumulative effect of individual land development projects is transforming New Hampshire's landscape and communities, and is a major contributor to many of the 55 environmental risks studied and ranked by the highly successful New Hampshire Comparative Risk Project. The intent of this project is to alleviate or reduce those risks by convening a credible, non-advocacy public/ private partnership that will 1) create a consensus-based vision of minimum impact development for New Hampshire, 2) develop or share technical information from applied research and field projects specifically designed to promote sustainable development, 3) identify voluntary practices at the building, site, and neighborhood scales that minimize the environmental impacts of land development, and 4) identify specific indicators by which to measure both short- and long-term environmental improvement. This information will be incorporated into four practical design manuals: one each for residential development, commercial and industrial development, institutional development, and indicators. Applicant: New Hampshire Comparative Risk Project, Concord, NH

**MSM Resource Based Planning Project (New Jersey)** The MSM (Middlesex-Somerset-Mercer) Regional Council, based in Princeton, New Jersey will conduct three case study projects to demonstrate how alternative development patterns can enhance quality of life while minimizing land use impacts on air and water quality. The first project will implement a plan for a new regional center in a suburban location and will demonstrate how a carefully planned center can absorb development that would otherwise result in sprawl. The second will focus on developing an existing inner-ring suburban corridor and will demonstrate how a new comprehensive, multi-modal transportation plan can serve as the basis for reorganizing existing land uses into a new more concentrated development pattern. The third project will work with a municipality to adopt a goal-oriented zoning ordinance that fully supports New Jersey's State Plan and will result in better environmental outcomes over time. Applicant: MSM (Middlesex-Somerset-Mercer) Regional Council, Princeton, NJ

→ **Newark Greenways Project (New Jersey)** Habitat Newark Homeowner's and Neighborhood Community Improvement Coalition will carry out a three-year planning and demonstration project in the Central Ward of the City of Newark. The goal of the project is to create pedestrian and bicycle paths that connect residents to employment opportunities, mass transit, businesses, day care centers, cultural sites, and recreational areas thereby reducing reliance on low-occupancy vehicles to get to access points within the City. By making small-scale improvements in environmental quality, and creating a sense-of-place and ownership among residents and community groups, the project seeks to improve the overall livability of Newark's Central Ward. The Greenways project will also involve residents in a variety of quality of life issues, such as recycling, planting of street trees and developing neighborhood design guidelines. Project partners currently include the Department of Engineering of the City of Newark; Habitat for Humanity Newark; Hispanic Development Corporation; New Community Corporation; and Professional Planning and Engineering (a private firm). Applicant: Habitat Newark Homeowner's and Neighborhood Community Improvement Coalition, Newark, NJ

**Healthy Foundations: The Environmental and Food Security Coalition (New Jersey)** Healthy Foundations is a collaborative three-year project facilitated by the Department of Nutritional Sciences at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The goals of Healthy Foundations are to: 1) create a community-based coalition dedicated to long-term development of a healthy environment and economic opportunity through an emphasis on sustained food security; 2) create a model system for environmentally sound year-round food production of "organic" vegetables in New Jersey; 3) integrate this production system into the local educational system at the grade school, high school and university levels; 4) increase year-round access to fresh, locally grown produce for members of the New Brunswick community through the development of two passive solar greenhouses and marketing of produce by local youth to area businesses; and 5) enhance economic growth by creating jobs in the local food industry through a culinary arts training program and other food services areas. Applicant: Department of Nutritional Sciences, Rutgers University, NJ